

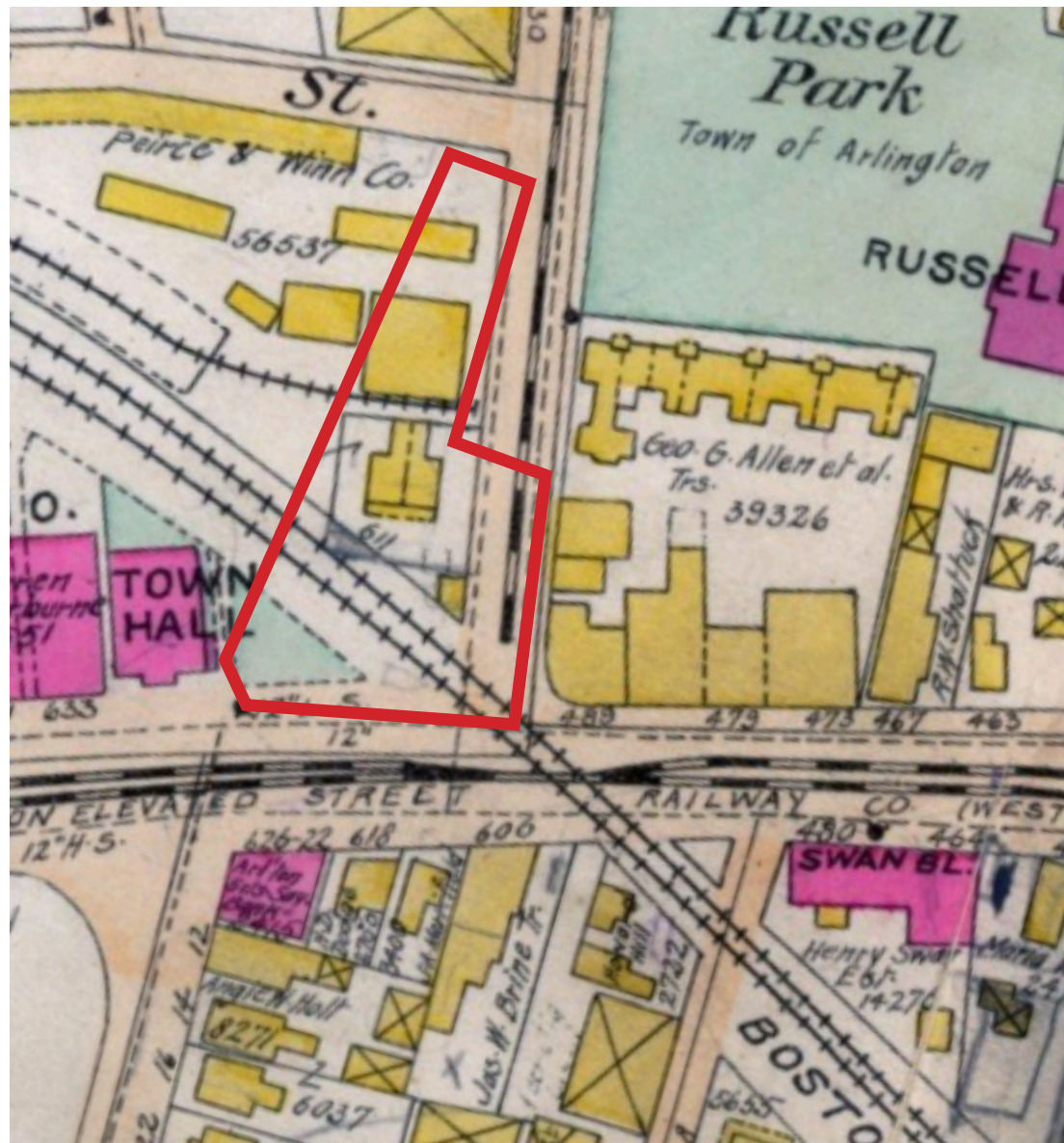


Meeting Agenda

- * Introductions
- * Design Option Presentation
- * Q & A

Context & Background





1875



1969



1989



Jefferson Cutter House moved to the site in 1989



Whittemore Park

May 17, 2018

Transformation of Site Over Time



CONTEXT PLAN

- Whittemore Park
- Civic / Cultural / Religious Organization
- Businesses
- Park or Public Open Space
- Cemetery
- Major Vehicular Route
- Minuteman Bikeway
- Walking Distance Radius







The House



The Park



Cultural / Heritage



Site Analysis



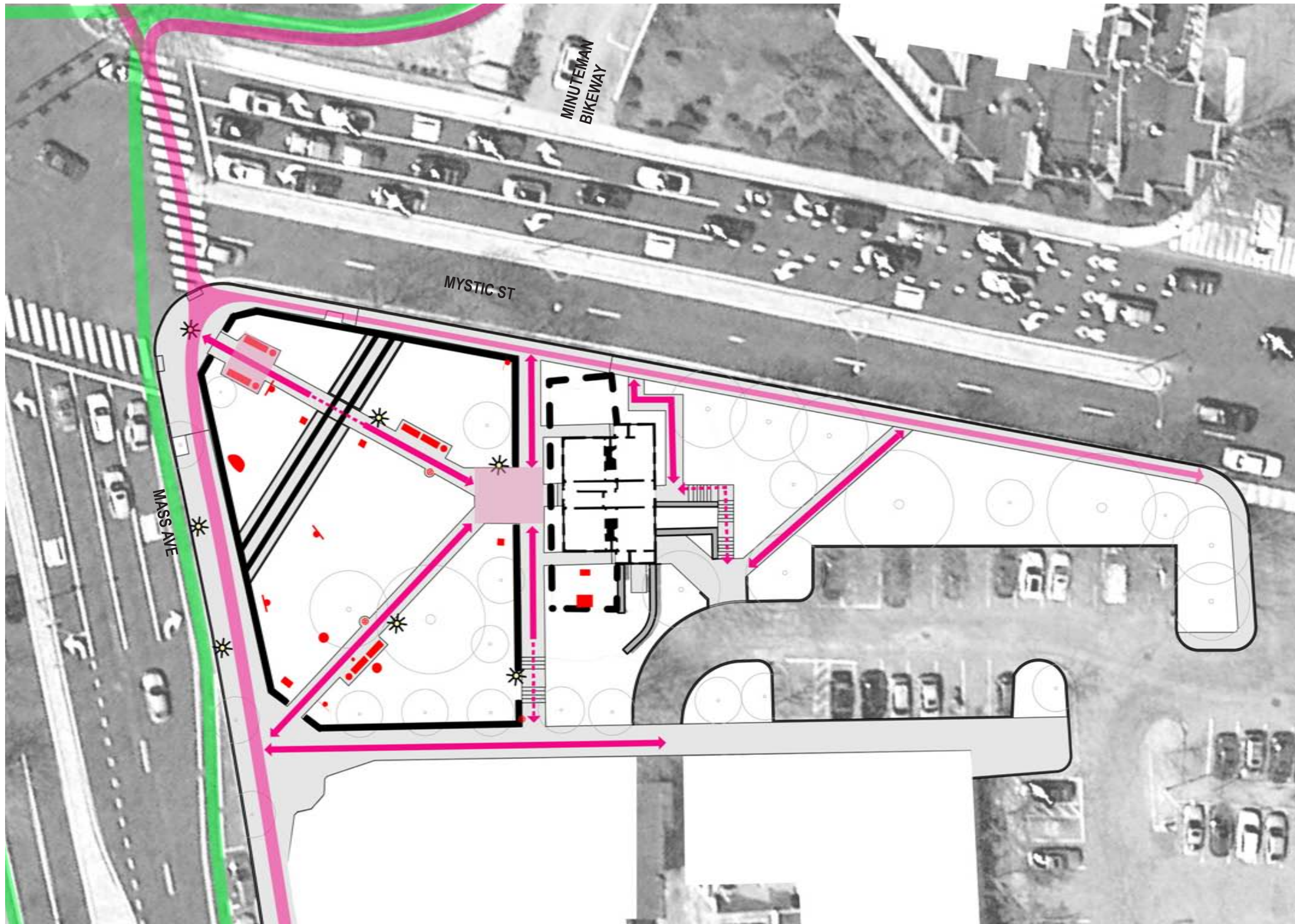




ELEVATION

- Highest Point
- Lowest Point





MOVEMENT

- ◀→ Walking Route in Park
- ◀...→ Walking Route with Accessibility Barriers
- Walking Route Outside Park
- Bike Route
- Gathering Space

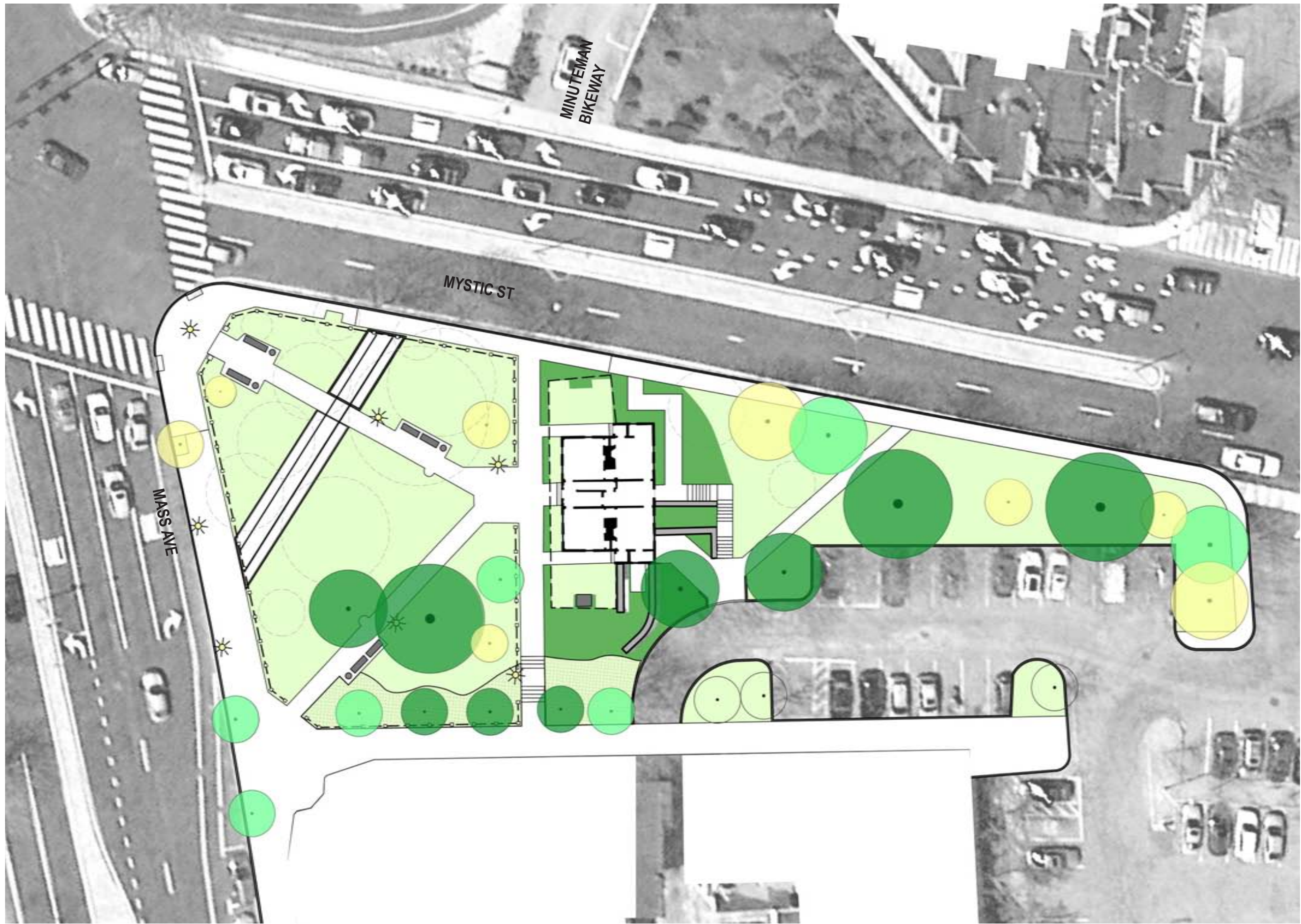
BARRIERS

- ✱ Granite Post and Rail Fence
- - - Wood Fence
- Rail Tracks
- Structures



Tree Quality

- Very Good
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Failing



Tree Quality

Very Good

Good

Fair

Poor (6 Removed)

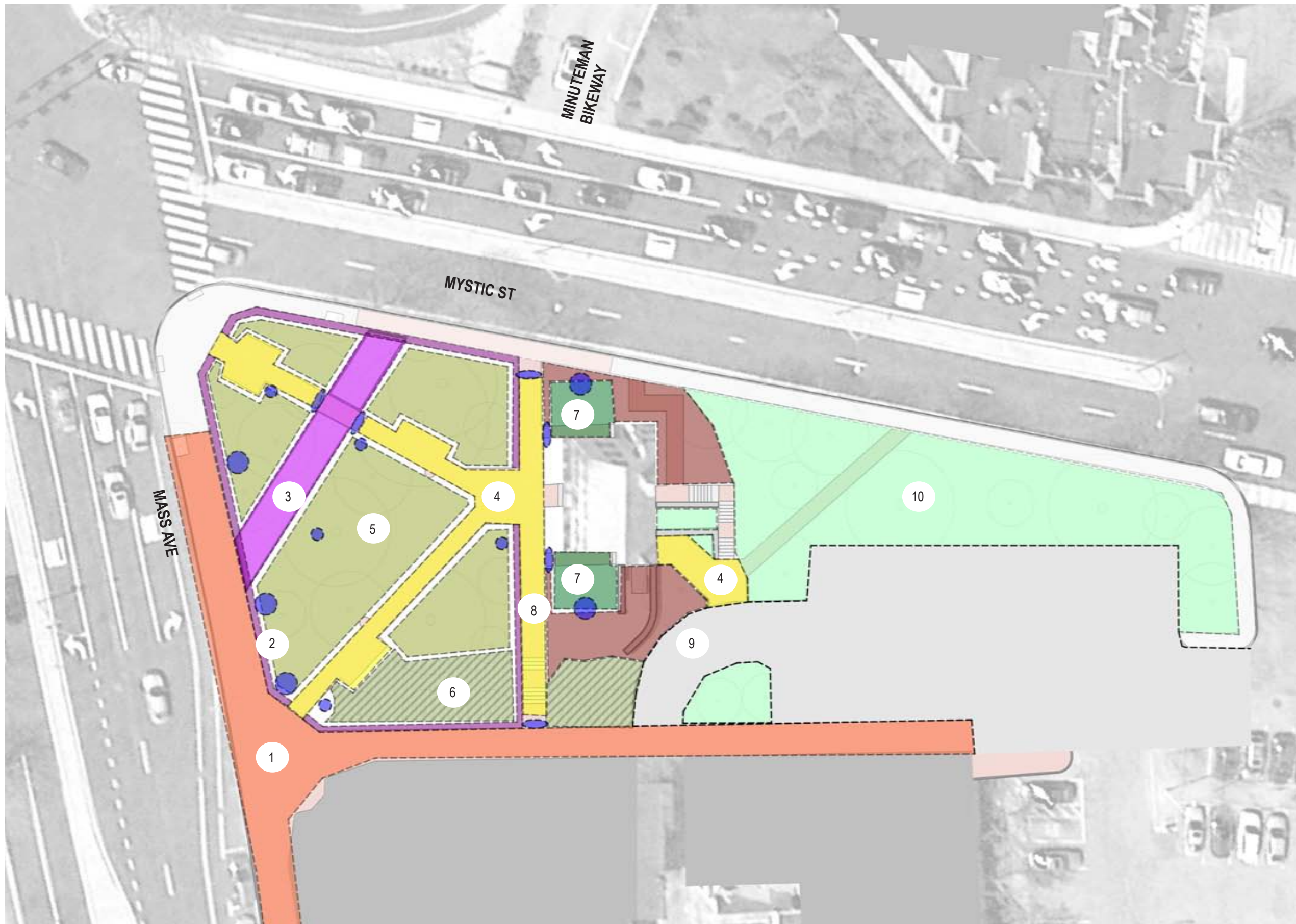
Failing (7 Removed)



Whittemore Park

May 17, 2018

Analysis: Trees to Plan a Park Around

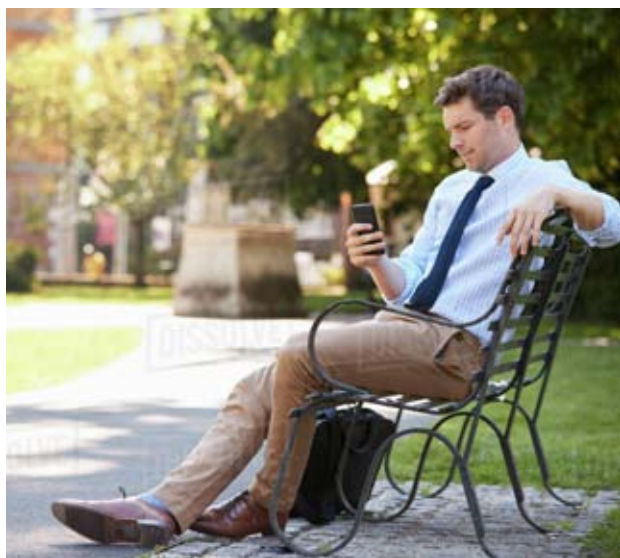


- ① Commercial street character wraps behind the park, away from the actual street. This corridor is not well lit at night and could be enhanced.
- ② Post and rail fence surrounds the park, making it feel separate from surrounding landscape on all sides.
- ③ Old rail road tracks give people a sense of connection to another era in Arlington, are appreciated by families for play value, and are a tripping hazard dividing the park.
- ④ Gathering spaces are enlargements of the brick path, so are very small and divide the space.
- ⑤ Remnant lawn spaces are too small for gathering and scattered with tree trunks, signs and monuments. The monuments are hard to see and divide the space.
- ⑥ Grass is failing under trees on the steep slope, roots are very exposed and require remediation.
- ⑦ Side gardens are segregated from larger garden landscape by fencing.
- ⑧ Path is uninviting. With fences on both sides this feels like a hallway and does not invite you into the park.
- ⑨ Parking lot circulation cuts into potential gathering space behind house.
- ⑩ Planted buffer along parking lot and Mystic Street is underused. No place for rest. Trees are haphazard.

Park Goals



Democratic



used by many types of people

Flexible



used for many kinds of activities

Beloved



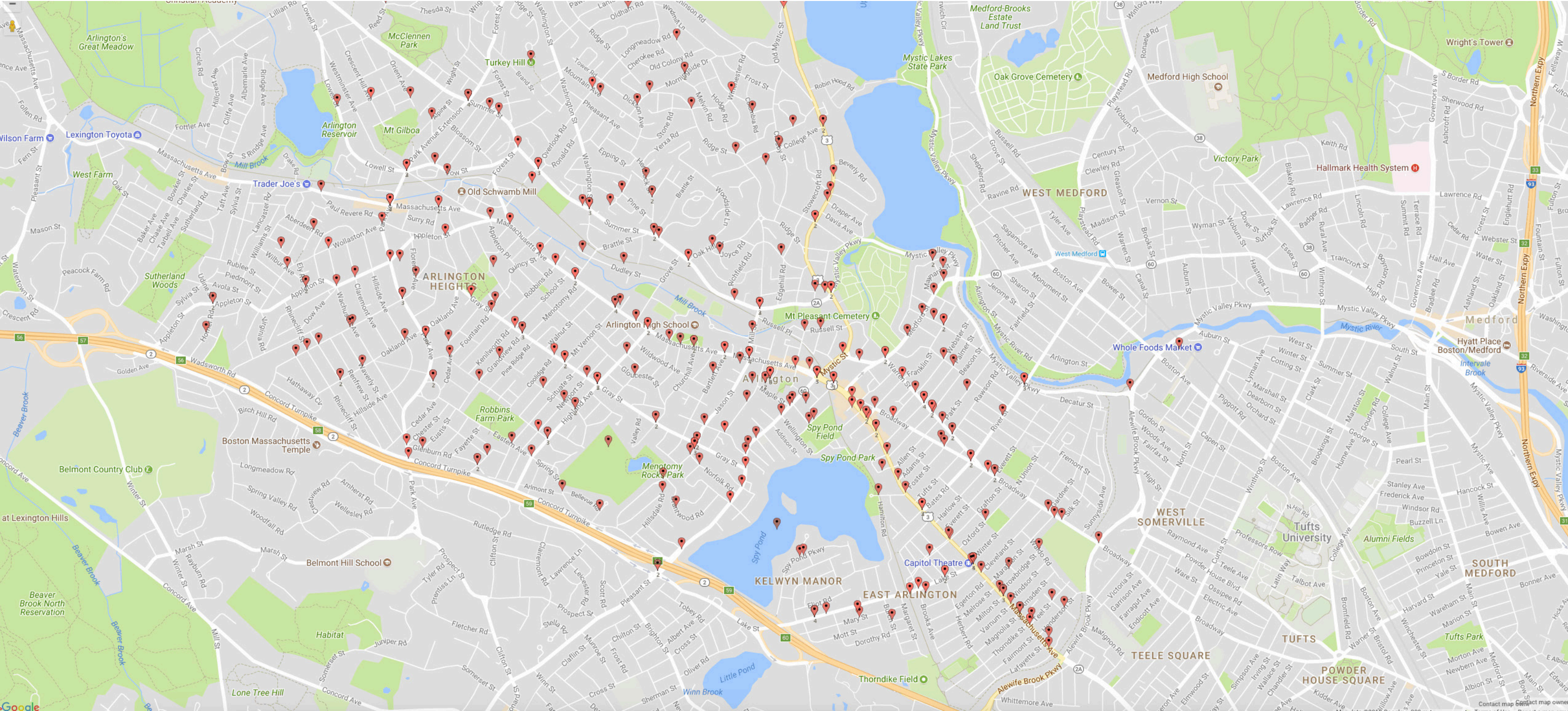
memorable
inspires stewardship
culturally appropriate



Community Goals



Online Survey- 515 Responses



Open House



Whittemore Park
May 17, 2018

Survey Respondants

Strengths / Opportunities

Some of the most loved features of Whittemore Park are also the source of some of the most frequently mentioned problems.

A great design for the park should enhance what already works, while addressing some important issues.



Walkable / Cut Through

Whittemore Park is **very walkable**.

81% of respondents arrive by walking or bike.

Whittemore Park is **centrally located**: people pass on their way to local businesses, the library, home and the Bikeway.

People pass by the park **frequently**.

91% pass by once a week or more.

However, they **rarely** spend time here.

77% spend time in the park **rarely** or **never**.

The top answer to “What do you do at Whittemore Park?” is “**Cut through**”.

Enhance gathering opportunities





Location on Mass Ave (average rating 3.83 of 5)



Mass Ave / Noise

The #1 asset of the park is its **proximity to Mass Ave**

But this is also seen as a **deterrent** to lingering and events because of noise and traffic.

Balance connection and buffering



Rail Tracks (average rating 3.71 of 5)



Cultural Memory / Safety

The community expressed strong opinions about the railroad tracks, both supporting of their **cultural significance** and **play value**, and expressing concerns about **safety** and **accessibility**.

Adapt beloved resource to accomodate full park use



Trees / Lawn

There was strong support for the shade and other benefits provided by trees in this location, as well as a desire for healthy trees and good usable lawn space.



Trees (average rating 3.59 out of 5)



Balance tree preservation with tree removal / lawn care

DESIGN GOALS

Democratic

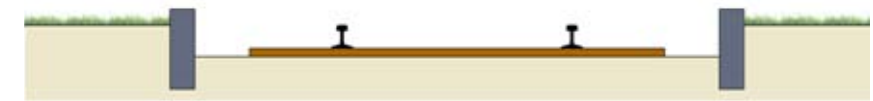
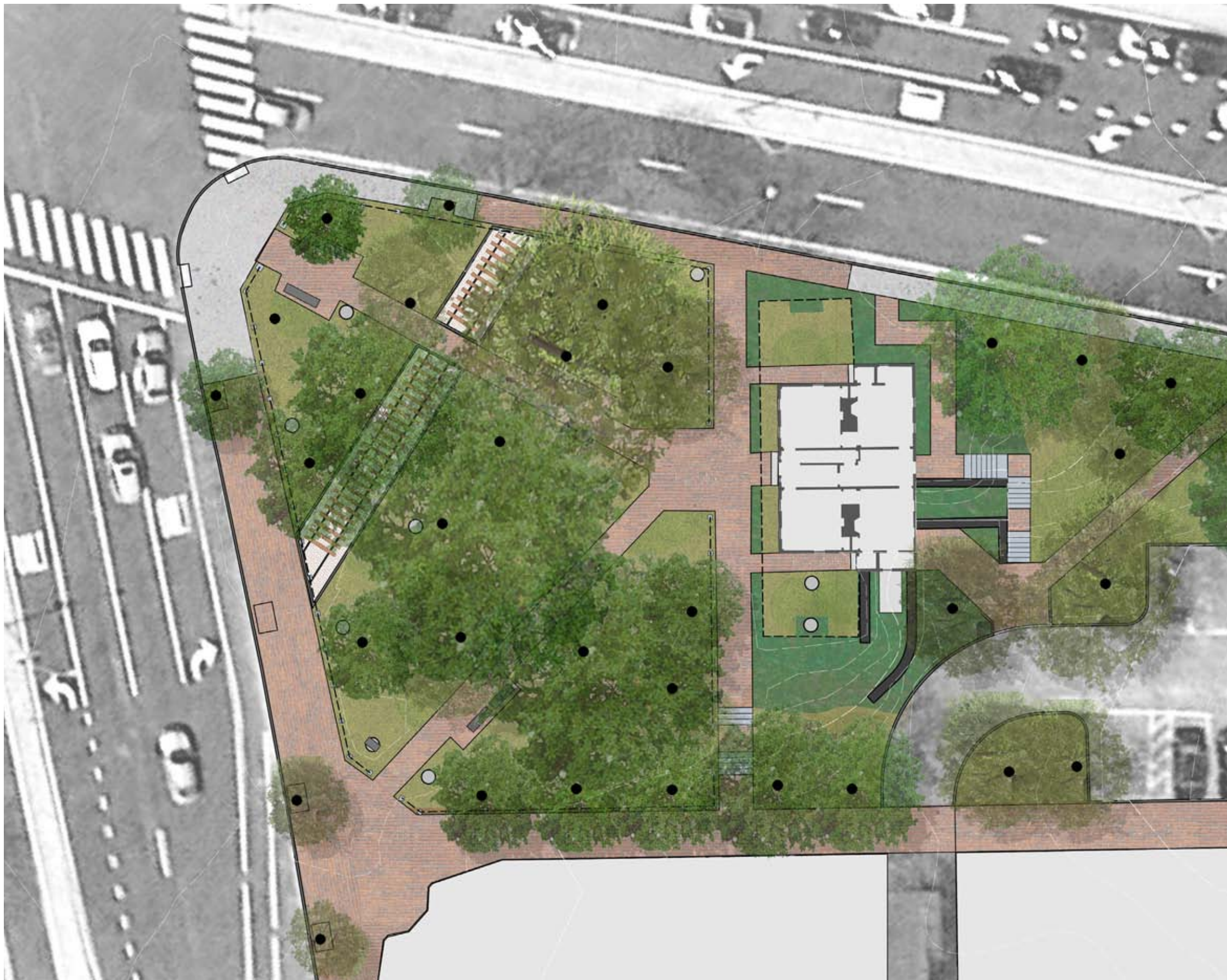
Flexible

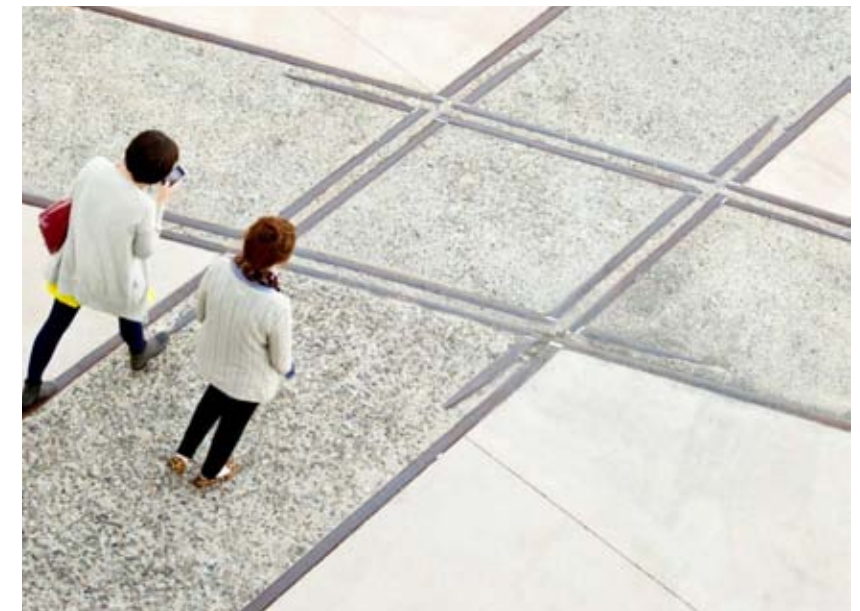
Beloved

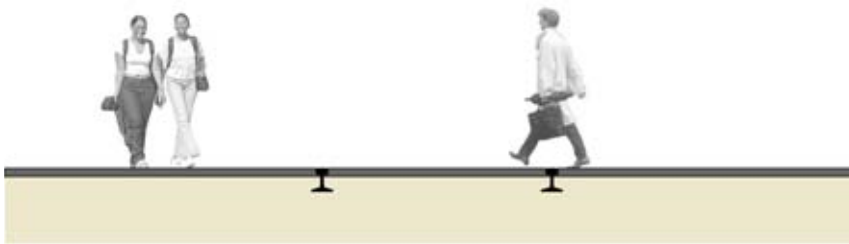
- Enhance gathering opportunities
- Balance connection and buffering
- Adapt railroad tracks to accomodate full park use
- Balance tree preservation with a healthy lawn

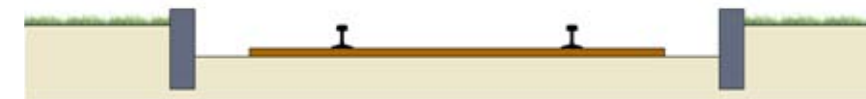
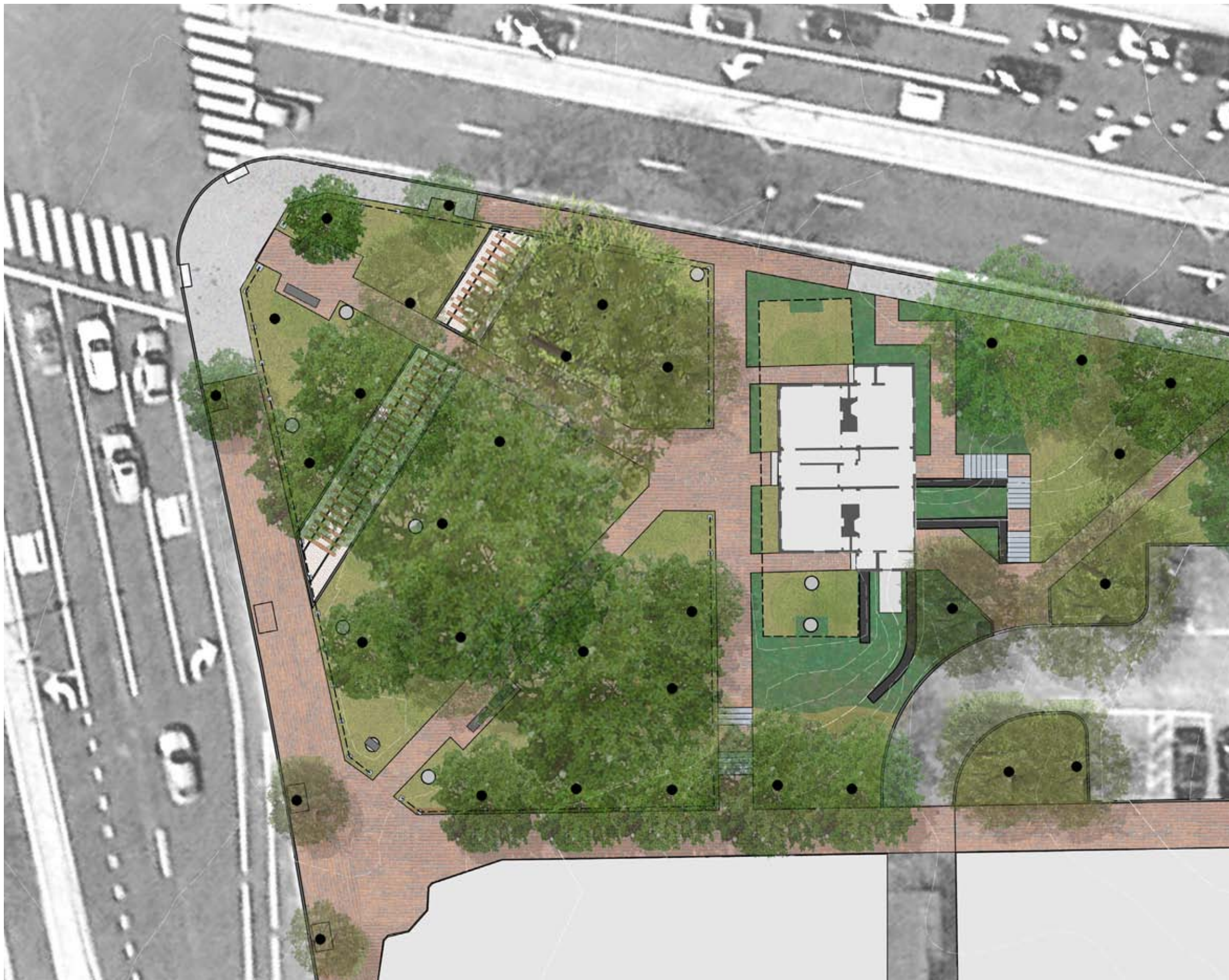
Options







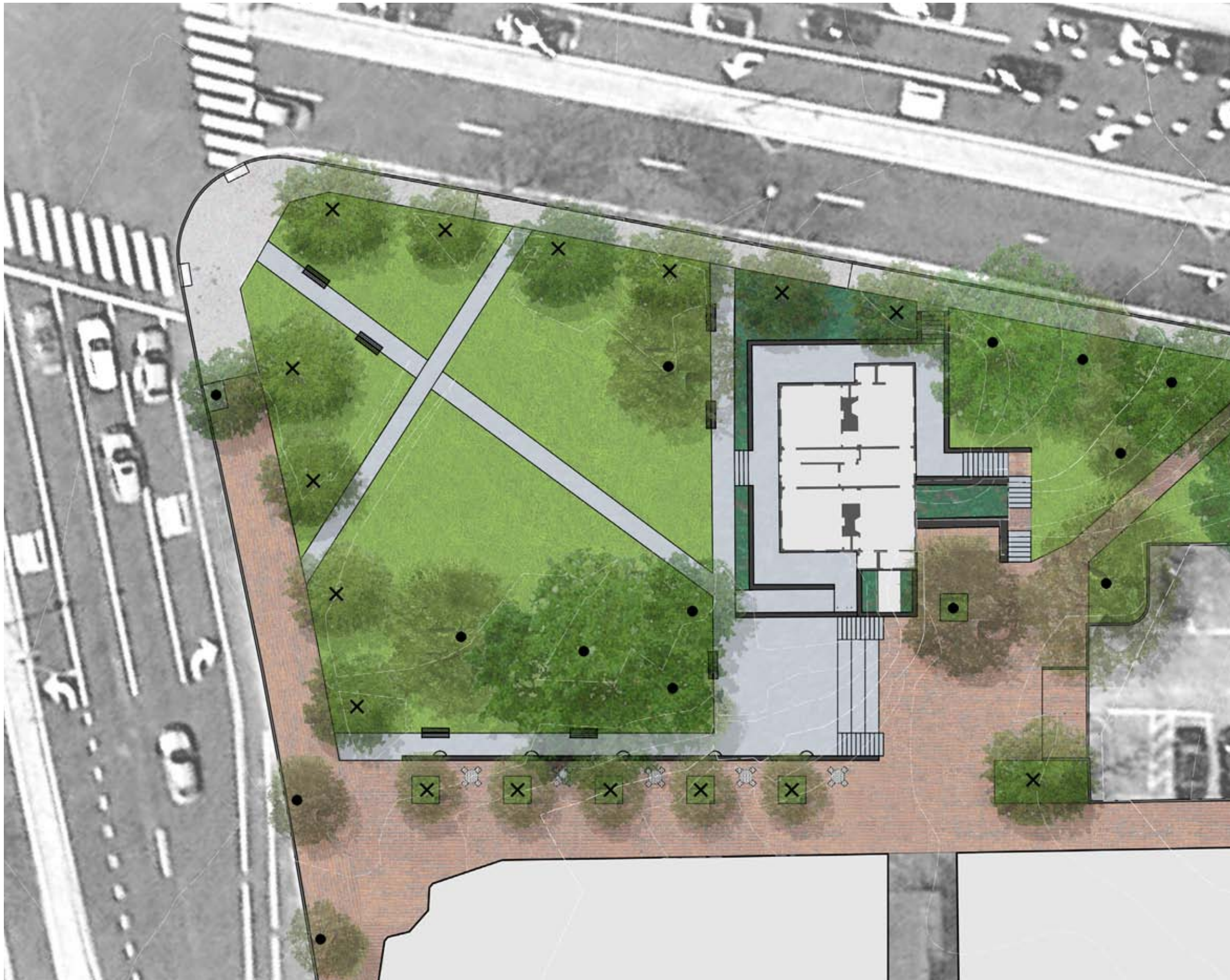


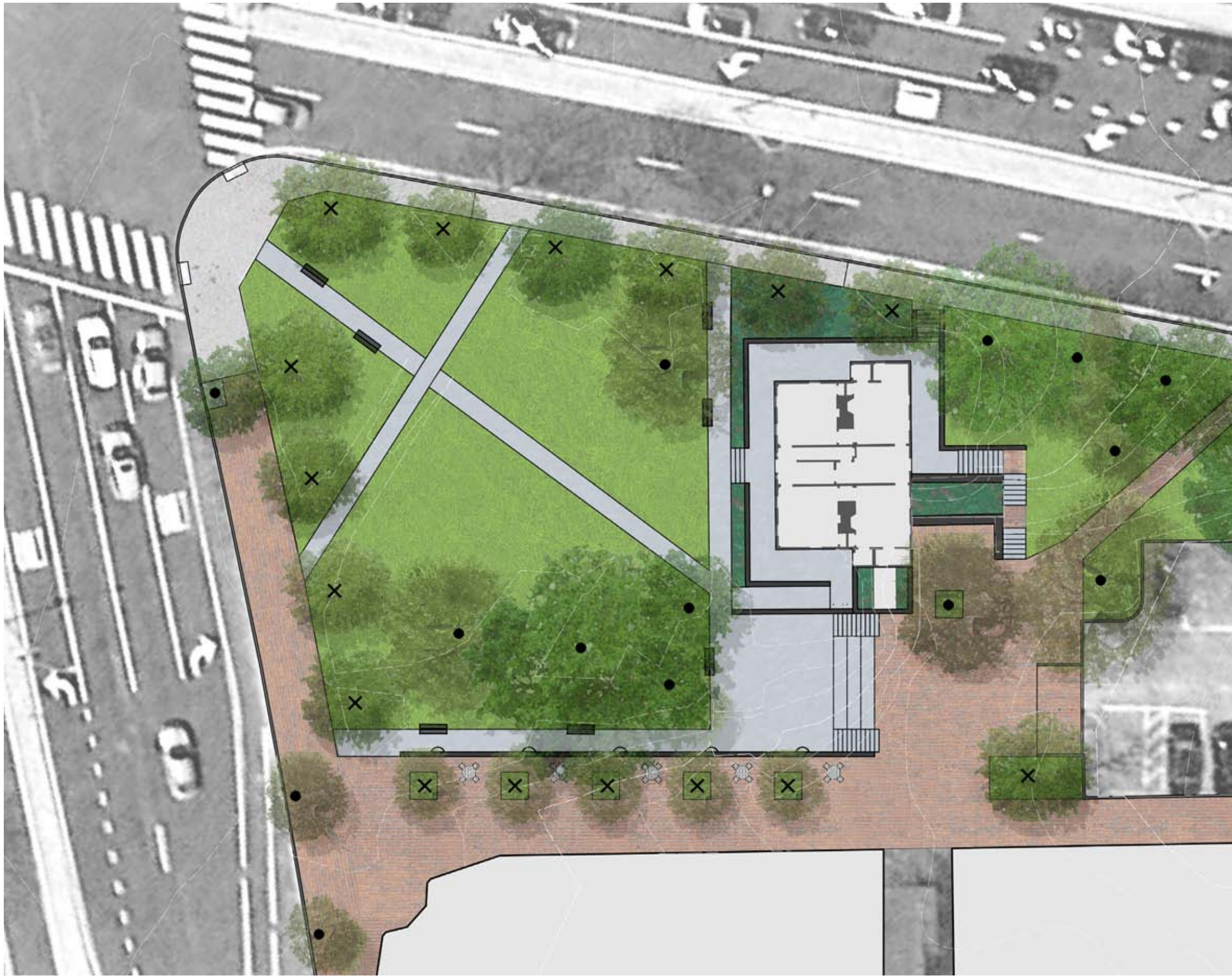


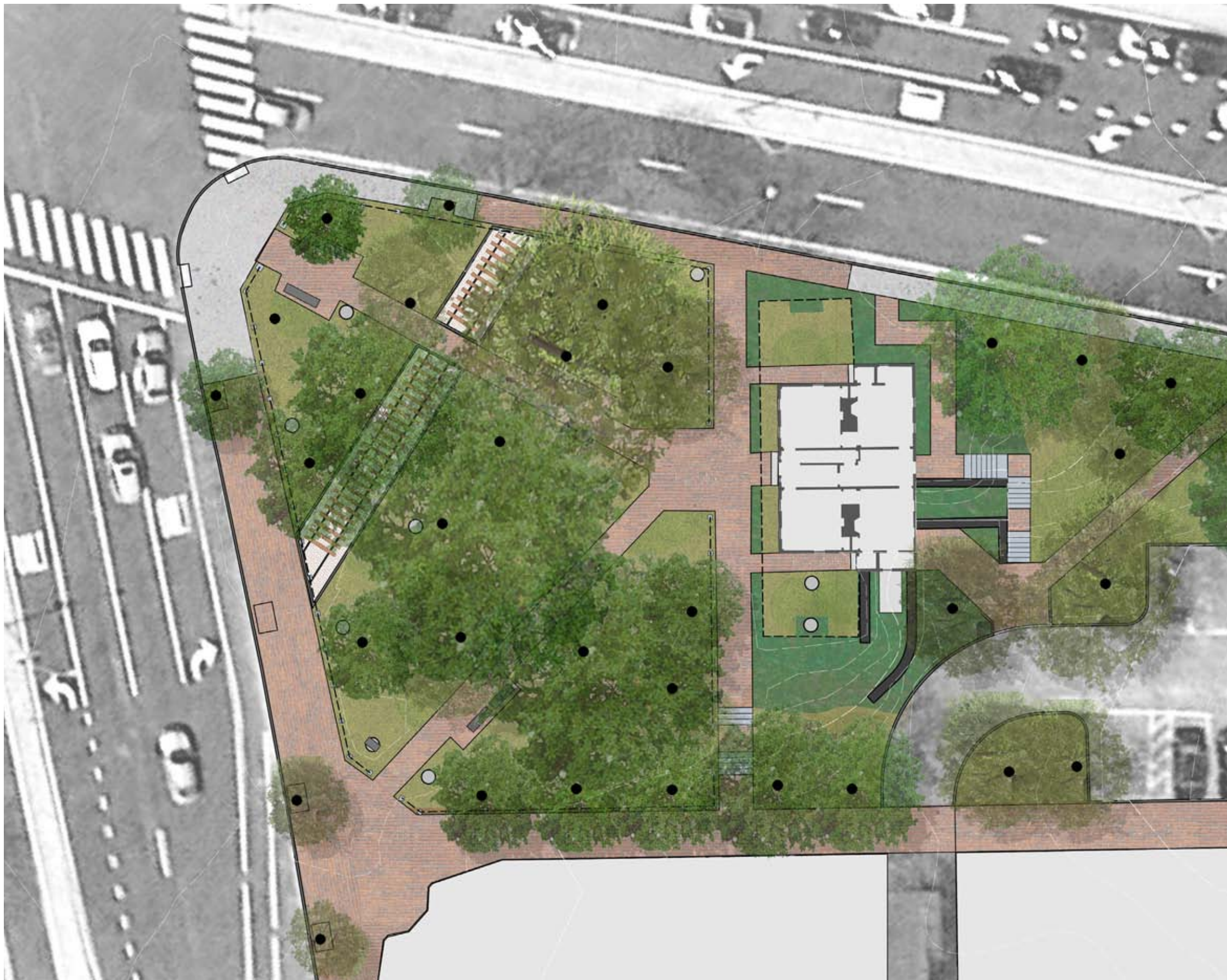
Whittemore Park

May 17, 2018

Existing Plan



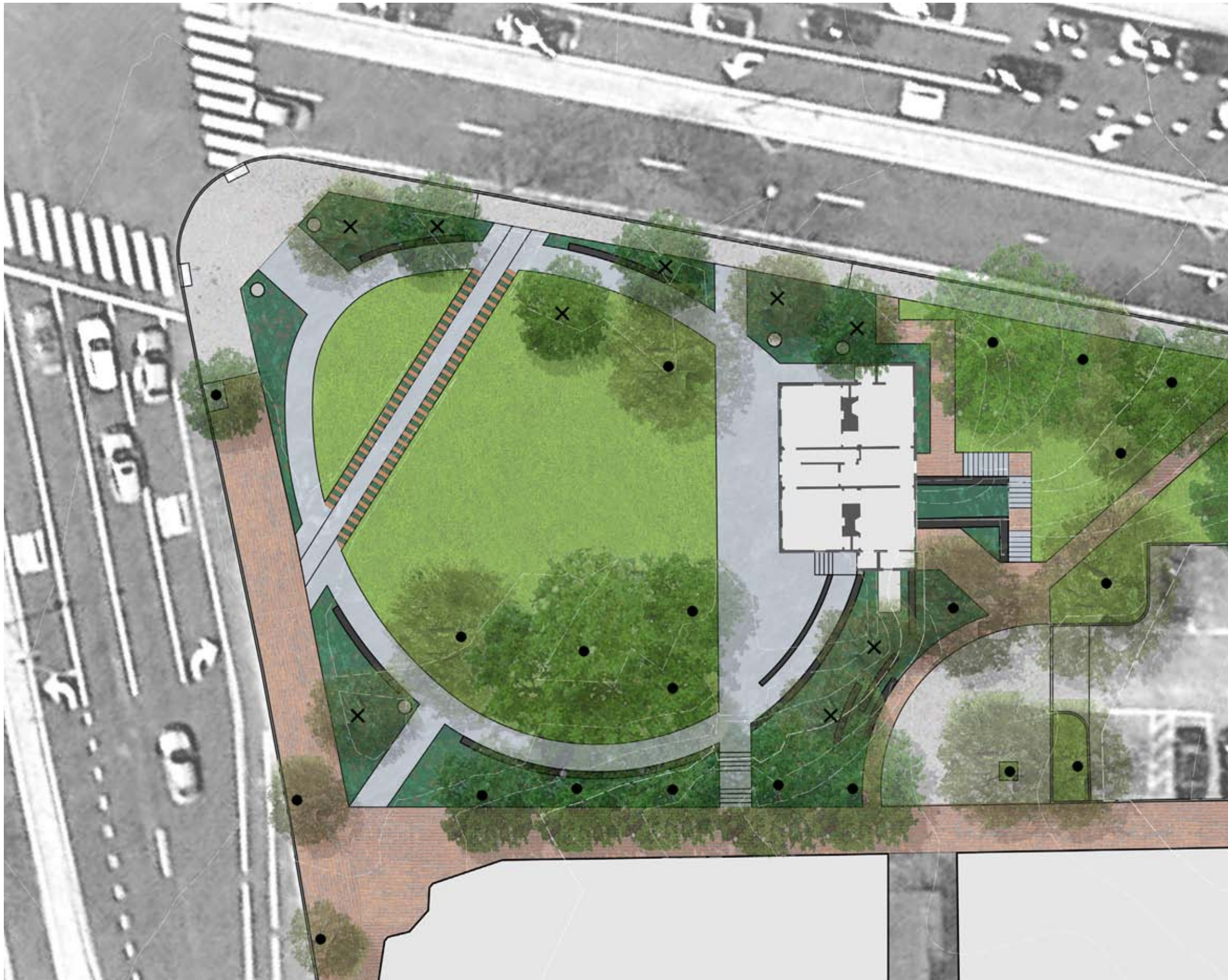


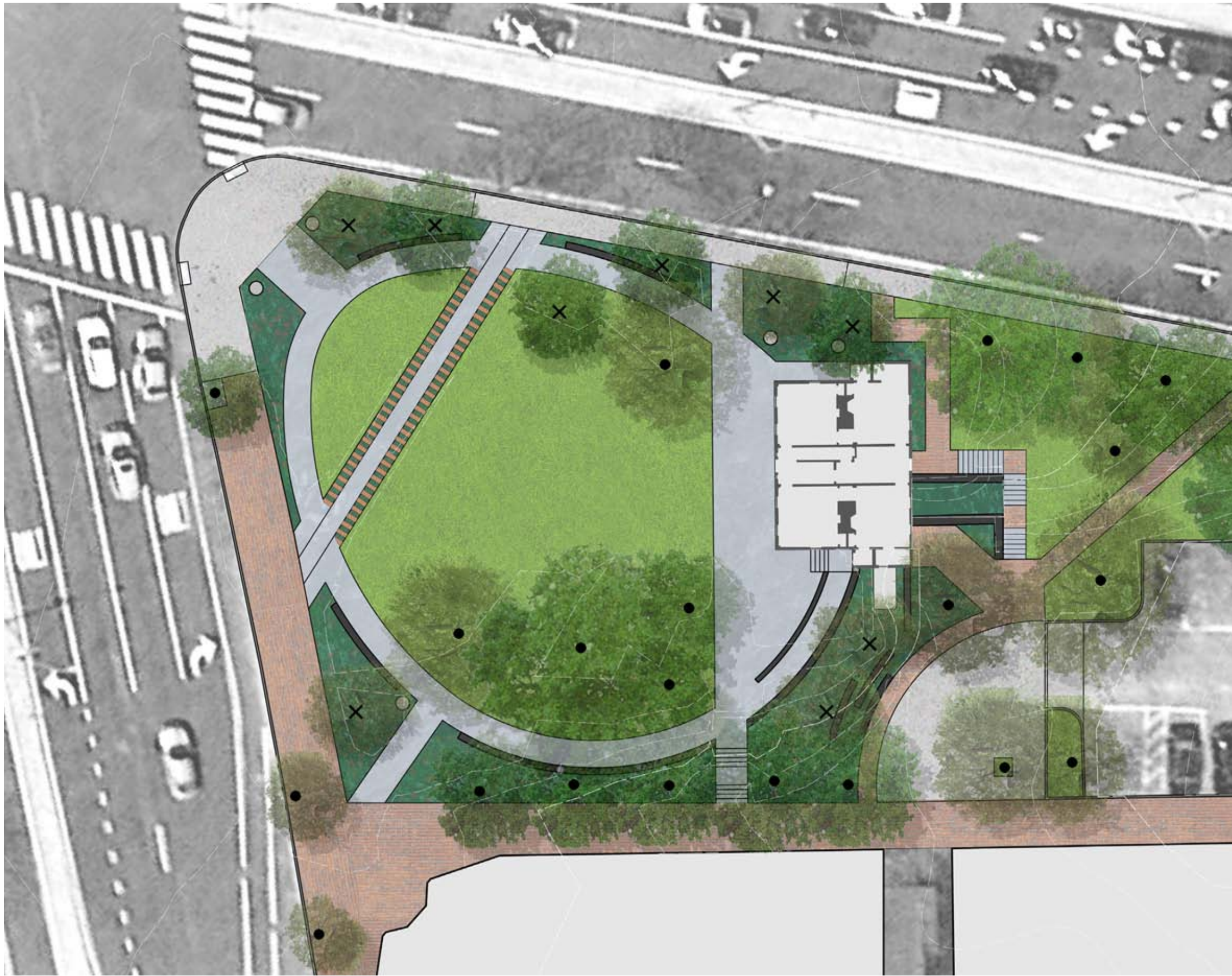


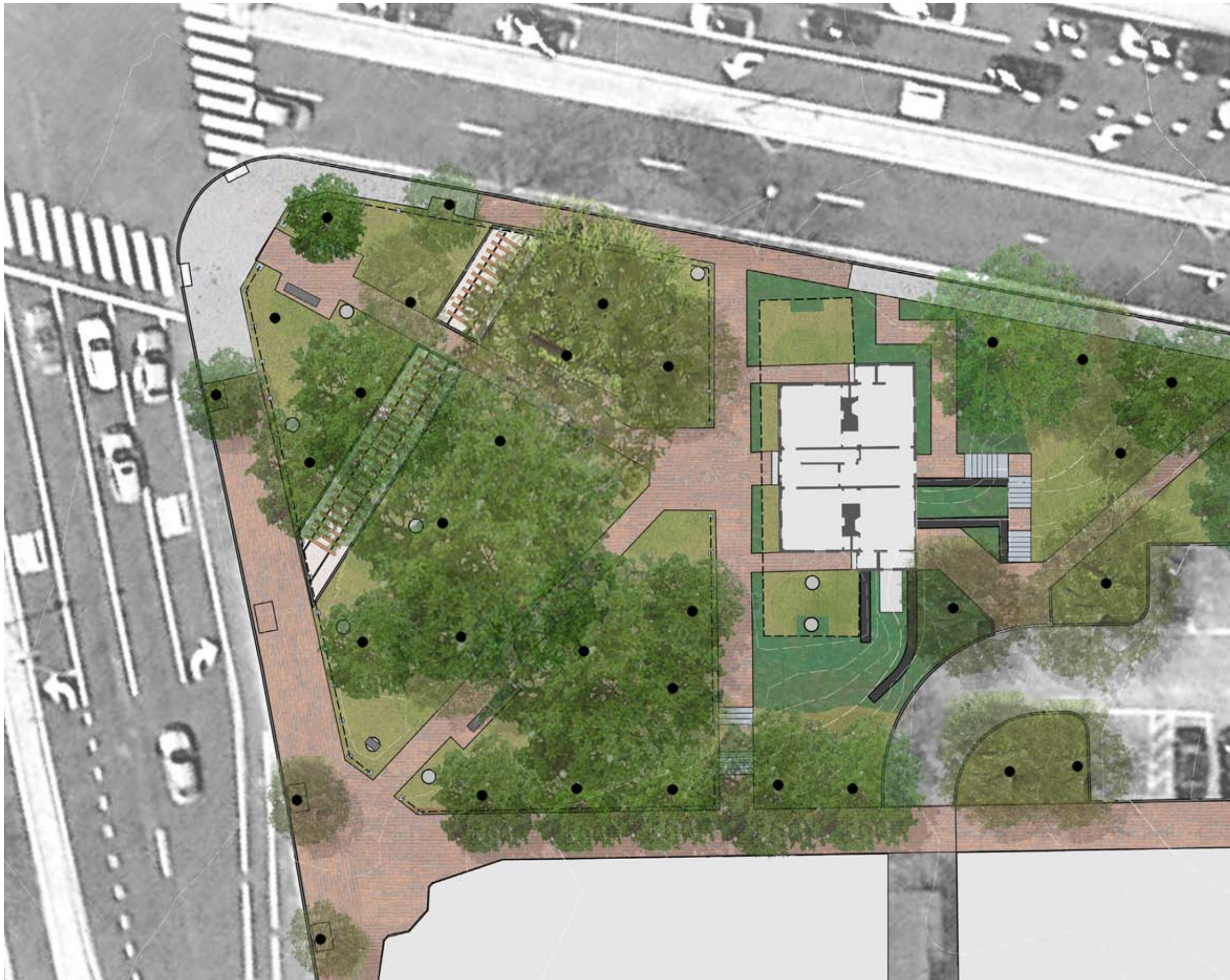
Whittemore Park

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Existing Plan



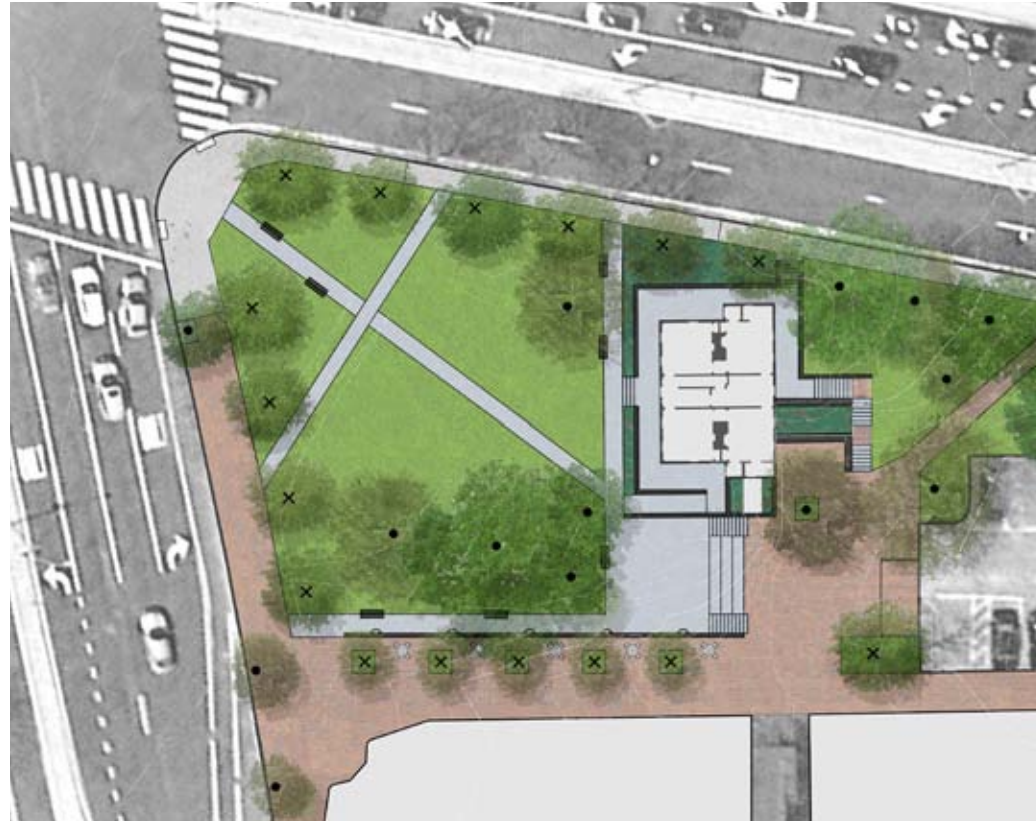




Whittemore Park

May 17, 2018

Existing Plan







Thank You

